ZERO

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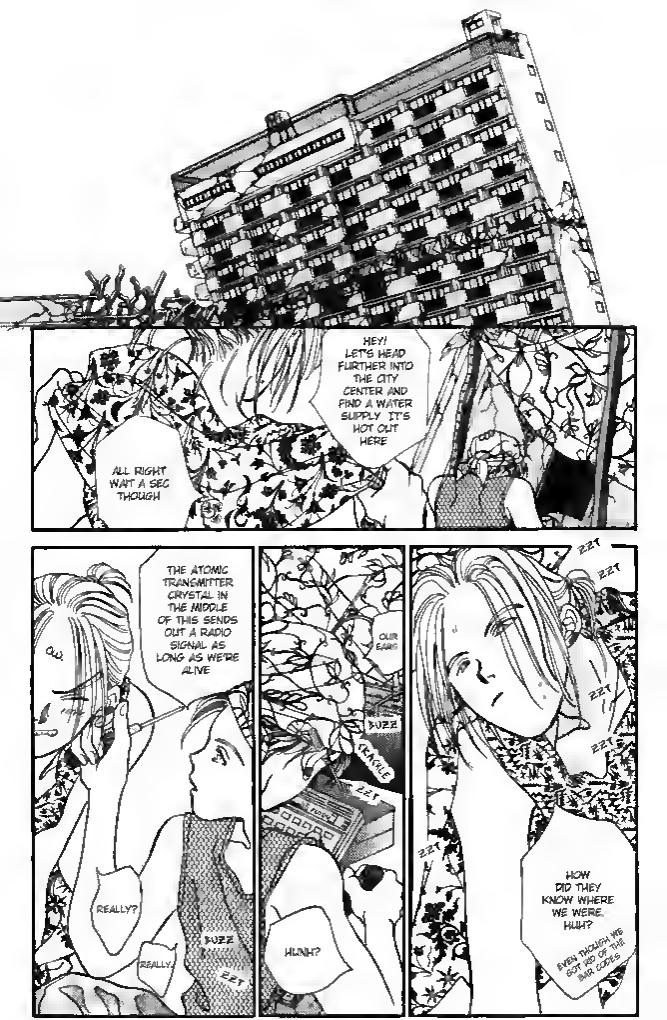
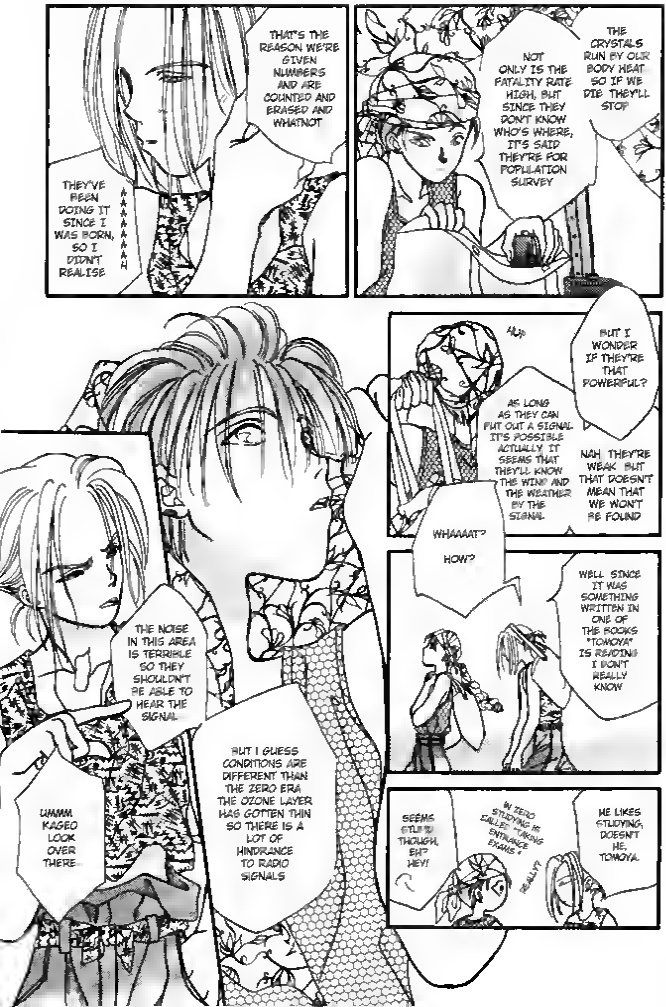
BY THE WAY, IS THERE AN ADDRESS FOR NEW TOKYO?
FOR THE TIME BEING, ZOO'S THAT WAY SO THE ADDRESS IS "WEST."
THAT'S PRETTY GENERAL


HEY! LET'S HEAD FURTHER INTO THE CITY CENTER AND FIND A WATER SUPPLY. IT'S HOT OUT HERE
ALL RIGHT WAIT A SEC THOUGH
OUR EARS
BUZZ
CRACKLE
ZZT
HUNH?
THE ATOMIC TRANSMITTER CRYSTAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SENDS OUT A RADIO SIGNAL AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE
OUU.
REALLY?
REALLY.
BUZZ
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
HOW DID THEY KNOW WHERE WE WERE. HUH?
EVEN THOUGH WE GOT RID OF THE BAR CODES


THAT'S THE REASON WE'RE GIVEN NUMBERS AND ARE COUNTED AND ERASED AND WHATNOT
THEY'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE I WAS BORN, SO I DIDN'T REALISE
AAAAAAAN
NOT ONLY IS THE FATALITY RATE HIGH, BUT SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW WHO'S WHERE, IT'S SAID THEY'RE FOR POPULATION SURVEY
THE CRYSTALS RUN BY OUR BODY HEAT SO IF WE DIE THEY'LL STOP
HUH
BUT I WONDER IF THEY'RE THAT POWERFUL?
AS LONG AS THEY CAN PUT OUT A SIGNAL IT'S POSSIBLE ACTUALLY IT SEEMS THAT THEY'LL KNOW THE WIND AND THE WEATHER BY THE SIGNAL
NAH, THEY'RE WEAK BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE WON'T BE FOUND
WHAAAAT?
HOW!?
WELL SINCE IT WAS SOMETHING WRITTEN IN ONE OF THE BOOKS "TOMOYA" IS READING I WON'T REALLY KNOW
THE NOISE IN THIS AREA IS TERRIBLE SO THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HEAR THE SIGNAL
BUT I GUESS CONDITIONS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE ZERO ERA THE OZONE LAYER HAS GOTTEN THIN SO THERE IS A LOT OF HINDRANCE TO RADIO SIGNALS
UMMM KAGEO LOOK OVER THERE
SEEMS STUPID THOUGH, EH? HEY!
IN ZERO STUDYING IS CALLED "TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS"
REALLY?
HE LIKES STUDYING, DOESN'T HE, TOMOYA

WHOA!

I THINK ALREADY YOU KNOW THIS BUT.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CITY.

THAT'S A MIRAGE RIGHT?

IT'S FLOATING IN THE AIR.

BUT THAT'S THE NEW CAPITAL CITY

EVEN THOUGH MAN-MADE THINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE UNNATURAL

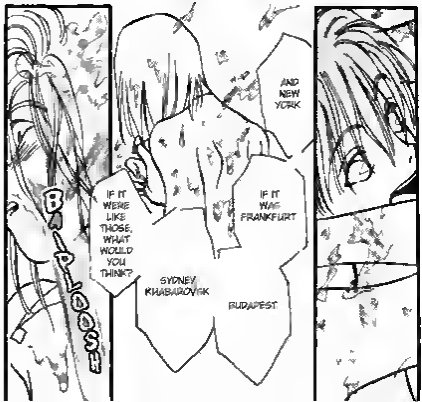
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS PLACE WAS NATURAL

THIS HAS THE FEELING OF A "DREAM" OR "HOPE" OR SOMETHING SO

I'M A LITTLE RUMMED

WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO GO ON, DO WE?

WE DON'T, DO WE?



WE'RE GOING AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL FIND BUT WE'RE BEING DRAWN TOWARDS IT

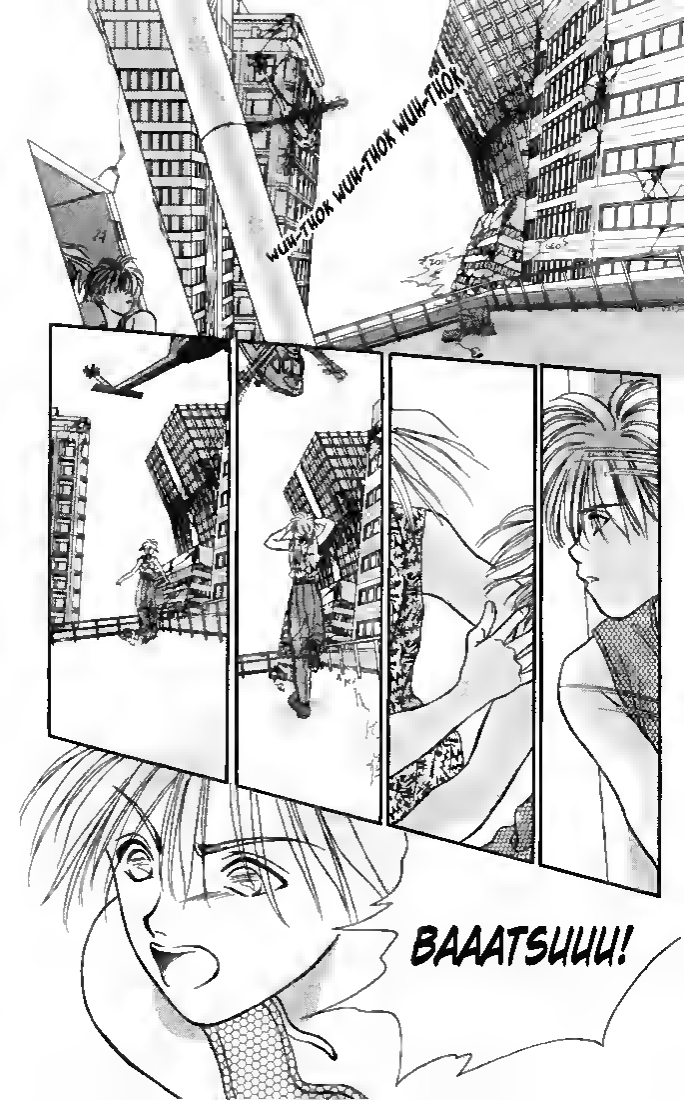
I'LL WHOOSE
CLOCK YOU ONCE!
CLOCK ME? CLOCK THE NERVOUS ONE?
YOU'RE TOO JITTERY I'M GONNA CLOCK YOU ONE
GAHRR GAHRR GAHRR
WHA!
YOU ... WAHADDYA
FWISSSH!

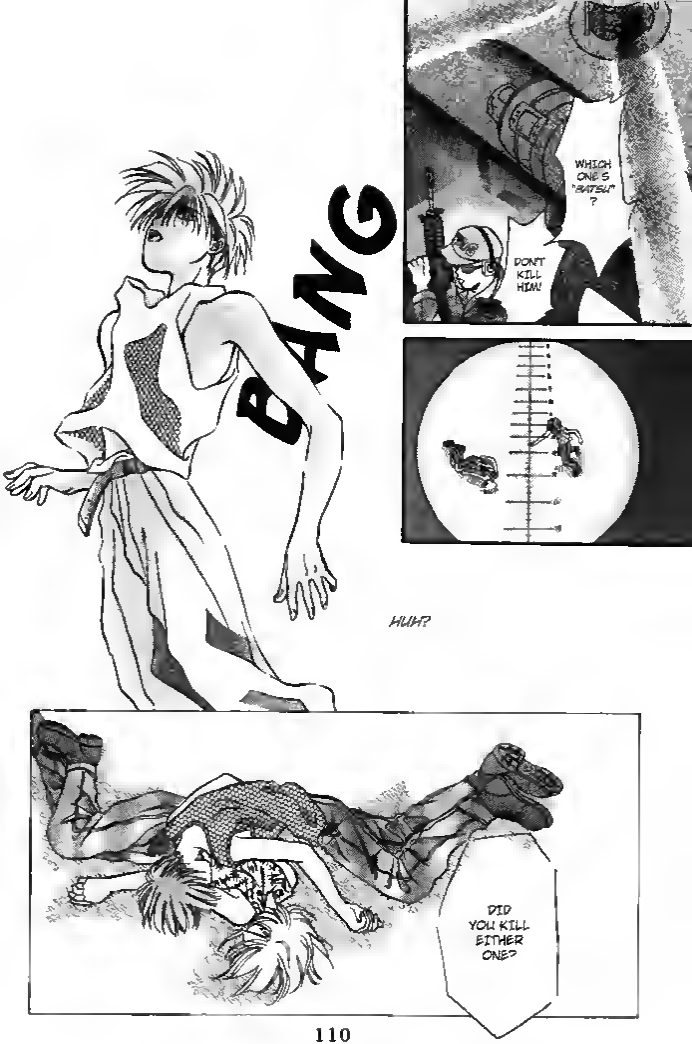
ARENT YOU COLD UP HERE?
IT'S EASIER TO GET A SIGNAL IN HIGH PLACES.
I'VE BEEN SENDING SHORT WAVE TO THE GUYS WHO ARE STILL IN "ZOO" THE WHOLE TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE BUT THEY'RE NOT RECEIVING IT
USUALLY IF I DO IT ALL DAY LONG THEY'LL GET THE SIGNAL BEFORE THE DAY IS OUT ALTHOUGH
MAYBE WE'RE ON THE WRONG CHANNELS

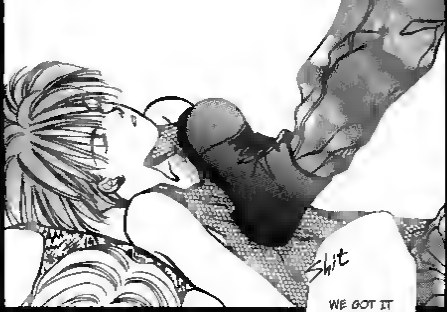
OH! YOUR MOM IS FAMOUS FOR BEING A RICH FOREIGNER,
YEAH WELL IT'S A KEEPSAKE OF MY DAD
BUT YOUR DAD DIED HUH?
HMM.
HEY, IS THIS LIKE "DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT" OR SOME-THING?
NAH, HE'S MISSING
AND I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT "FOREIGNER" THING PASS EITHER, JAP
IT'S BECAUSE AFTER I WAS BORN I NEVER MET HIM, YOU KNOW!
WELL THEN, DON'T TREAT IT LIKE A KEEPSAKE!
GEO
EEKK
EEKK
GEO IT'S YOU RIGHT? IT'S ME
SHADDUP!
WHAT? WE'...

THEY FOUND THE ZERO
KOKA TOOK SOME ZERO AND FELL ASLEEP HE HASN'T WOKEN UP
AGI...
AGI IS THAT YOU?
THEY CAUGHT ZATTO I'LL PROBABLY BE CAUGHT TOO
IZAYA'S MISSING...
THEY'RE NARROWING THE TARGETS DOWN TO PEOPLE WHO'RE USING ZERO.
THEY SAY THE CRIMINAL WHO KILLED KAIE IS SOME GUY WHO HAD A BAD TRIP ON ZERO.
I'VE GOTTA GO BACK IT'S GOTTEN REALLY RISKY
"HELP ME..."
-SO
GEO...
IE...
HEL-
PAIN
PAIN

IF YOU GO BACK IT'LL BE EVEN MORE RISKY RIGHT?
THEY'RE CALLING ME
WHOOP WHOOP
WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP
PANG
PANG
PANG
PANG
PANG
PANG


WUH-THOK WUH-THOK WUH-THOK
BAAATSUUU!


WHICH ONE'S "RATSU"?
DON'T KILL HIM!
BANG
HUH?
DID YOU KILL EITHER ONE?


Shit
WE GOT IT BACKWARDS?

KA-CHIK

ANYWAY, LET'S GET BACK TO ZOO.

SO, UHMM...

I...

(WHAT RIKAKO?)
I, WH- I-
THAT IS, I, I-
(GO ON - AND? GO ON AND TELL ME!)
RIKAKO!
WOO!
WH-
WH-
WHERE AM I?
HEY, HE'S AWAKE
ZAAAAAAAAANG
ARRGH

ZAITO!
YOU'RE IN A POLICE CELL
UUMAH!
SO YOU WERE FOUND EH GEO?
I'M... STILL ALIVE?
YOU WERE HIT WITH A TRANQUILIZER GUN
YOU SLEPT AROUND THE CLOCK, YOU KNOW?
W-WHAT ABOUT BATSU?
ZOW
REALLY
DUNNO HE HASN'T COME HERE BUT...?
PLUS, IT SEEMS THAT IT ISN'T JUST THE STUFF THAT AG! MADE EITHER. THEY'RE GUYS WHO CHECKED THE INGREDIENTS OF AG! S DRUGS AND MADE SOME THEMSELVES
THE GROUP HERE ARE ALL GUYS WHO GOT A HOLD OF IT FROM A ROUTE THAT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF INCIDENTS
MORE ZERO GOT INTO CIRCULATION THAN WE THOUGHT
GRAB
BY THE WAY,
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE PEOPLE?
IT'S REALLY YUCKY!

EITHER WAY, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY'RE "ZERO" ADDICTS. BUT THAT THERE'S THAT KIND OF SIDE-EFFECT...
ARISU'S BEING TRANSFERRED HUH?
12×7=84
IT'S BEEN WHAT, TWELVE OR THIRTEEN PEOPLE ALREADY? ALMOST ALL WOMEN
AFTER KAIE'S INCIDENT PEOPLE'VE BEEN KILLED ONE AFTER ANOTHER
INCIDENTS?
THEY SAID THAT KOKA'S FALLEN ASLEEP
AND STAYED THAT WAY
KOKA IS ONE OF ZERO'S SIDE-EFFECTS TOO THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THAT TOO PRISONS AND HOSPITALS ARE DOING HUGE BUSINESS RIGHT NOW
AGI IS HIDING AT GRANNY'S PLACE IT'LL BE HARD TO CATCH HIM THERE EH?
WHO'D YOU HEAR IT FROM?
AGI
I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT FROM OUTSIDE

Speaking of research, we ar ed u takin a huge amount of photos. still, as expected on this for my works, I take pictures for that purpose. It gets so that I don't know what pictures I've taken and what pictures I still haven't taken. Neverless, I still take them. Hee hee hee.... Plus, my pictures are bad. Things like not using the flash or not putting the film in. You can think of it to the level of had as not even being the problem (That's right.) But, when I hold a camera I forget shame! I climb fences and stand in the middle of pedestrian bridges waiting for the chance to snap the shutter and the like. good g rls aren't allowed to imitate me okay!

WHEN SHE CAME TO MY PLACE, SHE WAS ALREADY COVERED IN BLOOD!
BUT OUTSIDE OF YOUR ROOM, THERE WAS NONE OF KAIE'S BLOOD WAS THERE?
I WAS THINKING THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN YOUR ROOM. BUT KAIE WASN'T LIKE THAT...

DO YOU THINK THAT I DID IT?!
YOU DON'T SUSPECT THAT, DO YOU ZATTO!?
GEO YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE THINGS WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING RIGHT?
THERE ARE ALSO GUYS WHO START SLEEPWALKING AS A SIDE-EFFECT OF ZERO IS IT POSSIBLE...
YES, I SUSPECT IT!! EVERYONE'S GOING TO PIECES AREN'T THEY!!
AND THAT'S MY FAULT?!
CLATTER
CLATTER
THAT'S RIGHT!!
WAAAAAGH
SOMEBODY STOP THEM!
AKATSUKI KAGEO COME HERE
A SOLITARY CELL HAS OPENED UP YOU'RE BEING MOVED YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT WITNESS

YOU GONNA DO THIS THE EASY WAY?
YOU AND YOUR BUDDY
MARCH!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HATSU?
HATSU.

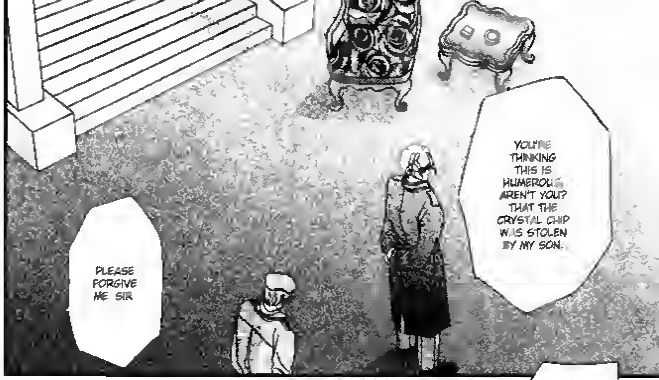
IT'S CAUSE YOU GUYS GOT CHUMMY WE NEVER THOUGHT WE'D CATCH THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY IN SPITE OF US THINKING YOU'RE A LONE WOLF AND WOULD CUT YOUR TIES WITH HIM OR SOMETHING
HE'S CRITICALLY ILL SO THEY TOOK HIM STRAIGHT TO ICU. THERE'S NO WORD ON WHETHER HE'LL LIVE OR NOT. WORRIED, HUH?

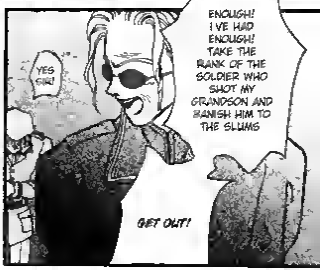
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE CONFESSING CALL US ANYTIME
WELL...
YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF
"HELP ME"
I COULDN'T...
EVERYONE'S GOING TO PIECES
I'M BEING SUSPECTED EVEN BY ZATTO
"THERE ARE ALSO GUYS WHO START SLEEPWALKING AS A SIDE EFFECT OF ZERO."
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT LOTS OF TIMES
DO ANYTHING
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I—
BUT, IT MIGHT BE THE SAME FOR HER. EVEN THOUGH KAIE DIED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES

ZERO · I

SWISH
HAS JULIA TURNED UP?
EVEN HAVING AND USING THIS ABILITY OF YOURS SHE HASN'T BEEN FOUND?
HAVING *THIS* IS CONFIRMED FROM THE MOTHER
AND I CAN'T THINK THAT HE'S HIDING IT
MUCH LESS KNOW THAT IT IS THE CRYSTAL CHIP THAT RUNS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPUTER
IT APPEARS THAT HIS HAS BEEN QUITE CARELESSLY HANDLED BUT AS LONG AS THERE'S NO DAMAGE?
COLONEL I INTEND TO BE, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, DOES IT
FORGIVE ME GENERAL BATSU SINCE IT DOESN'T SHOW ON YOUR FACE TRULY YOU
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR GRANDSON?

WOW! I've written a lot up to this point and what's this? Since this is a new work there are also first timers out there aren't there? Hiii


PLEASE FORGIVE ME SIR
YOU'RE THINKING THIS IS HUMBROUS, AREN'T YOU? THAT THE CRYSTAL CHIP WAS STOLEN BY MY SON.


YES SIR!
ENOUGH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH! TAKE THE RANK OF THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT MY GRANDSON AND BANISH HIM TO THE SLUMS
GET OUT!

OH, WAIT A MINUTE

THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO CONSPIRED TO ESCAPE WITH HIM, WASN'T THERE?
BRING HIM.

LISTEN UP! YOU LOT ARE JUST BEING CONFINED TO YOUR ROOMS AND
YOU'RE BEING RELEASED
OUR PUNISHMENT IS FINALLY OVER!
YAY!
WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU. MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T LEAVE YOUR ROOMS
SO THAT NOTHING WEIRD WILL HAPPEN..
IT'S BECAUSE ALL OF THE ZERO IN OUR ROOMS WAS CONFISCATED, WASN'T IT?
MUTTER... MUTTER...
DAMN!
ZATTO...
CRISH
GRITCH
SORRY
POK

KA CHANG
YOU'RE BEING RELEASED
WHEN WILL THAT...
UNTIL THEY CATCH THE CRIMINAL
OR I RUN AWAY ONCE AGAIN AND BECOME A CRIMINAL MYSELF
MY RELEASE IS STILL IMPOSSIBLE ISN'T IT
DESPITE GETTING SLEE... DEPRIVED TO WATCH OVER ME
HE WAS WORRIED?
HUH?
RELUCTANCE
JUST ME? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SOLITARIES?
THAT'S RIGHT JUST YOU GOT A NOTICE FROM UP STAIRS
THE REASON IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE NO WEAPON TURNED UP EITHER

DO THEY USUALLY GO ALL THE WAY OUT INTO THE DESERT JUST TO SEARCH FOR A SUSPECT?
SOME-THING'S STRANGE
WOO
WHAT'S THE FROM? DON'T LOOK IN HERE
THNK
SURE DID A HELLOVA JOB DIDN'T THEY
SOMEBODY CLEAN THIS UP!
WHO ARE YOU?
GEO?

CHLOROFORM?
GRAB
COME ALONG QUIETLY, WON'T YOU?
WHA-?
WHADDYA DOIN'?! DON'T BE FUCKING WITH ME!
WHOOMPF
WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE THOSE GOONS?
IS LEFT? WHICH WAY?
EXIT
AAAGH
HOLD HIM!

RI-CHI!!N
THAT'LL DISRUPT BUSINESS!!
DON'T BE CLOSIN' THE DOOR!
HEY!
I WAS ABOUT TO BE KIDNAPPED AND THAT'S WHEN THEY USED THE CHLOROFORM.
I HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING!
PUT A SOCK IN IT DUMMY!' YER NOT HURT ARE YA?
GR-GRANNY YOU SURE LOOK PEACEFUL DONCHA?
BAM!
BAM!
WHITE
BOOZE
WHAT DYA DO THIS TIME?!
I'M NOT THEY'RE I THINK
I'M NOT TO MATTHEW
I'M NOT TO MATTHEW
YA STINK OF BOOZE! YOU'VE BEEN DRINKIN' IN TH' AFTER-NOON
GEH

WHAT!?
HE'S HERE
WELL IT DIN'T MATTER THEY'RE IN THE BACK, THE TWO OF 'EM.
GEO!! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
HEY...
CHLOROFORM? YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON SOME WEIRD STUFF DIDN'T YOU? SO DO YOU FEEL GOOD?
DON'T ASK!
AHHHNNN I HAD A WHIFF OF CHLOROFORM ON THE WAY...
YOU OK? ARE YOU SLEEPY?
PA-TAN
I'M NOT A KITTEN!

UHM GEO...
RUFFLE RUFFLE
WELL HEY! YOU GOT BURNED BY THE ULTRAVIOLET RAYS SO YOUR HEAD HAS GOTTEN EVEN REDDER THAN EVER!
AH, YEAH!
HEY! YOU ALRIGHT?
SOMEONE WAS AFTER YOU?
NO WAY IT COULD BE ABOUT THE ZERO HUH?
IF IT WERE THE ZERO MY NAME WOULDN'T HAVE COME UP THAT MUCH, RIGHT? THEY KNEW ME BY NAME
THEN WHY? IF THEY TRIED TO CATCH YOU, SOMEHOW THEY MUST'VE KNOWN
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN CAUGHT, SO DON'T SAY THAT!
RUDE

IN ANY CASE, IF WE'RE DOWN HERE FOREVER, GRANNY'S GOING TO GET ALL FUSSY 'CAUSE IT'LL INTERFERE WITH SALES
EVEN IF WE GET RID OF THE TOOLS WE USED TO MAKE THE ZERO, I EXPECT THEY'LL BE TRACED BACK TO THE MANUFACTURER
OHH OHH
WHY DON'T WE DISAPPEAR FOR A LITTLE WHILE? THE COUNTERFEITS HAVE FINALLY APPEARED AS WELL, SO
WE'RE GONNA LEAVE KOKA HERE I SUPPOSE?
WE CAN'T BRING HIM WITH US. WE DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO TURN OUT
WHY DON'T WE ESCAPE TO THE SLUMS OR SOMETHING? IF WE GO THERE THERE ARE ONLY SICK PEOPLE, AND A LOT OF THEM TOO SO WE WON'T BE FOUND QUICKLY
WELL... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT
BUT WE'LL BE EXPOSED TO ULTRAVIOLET RAYS AND RADIATION OUTSIDE RIGHT?
IT SEEMED LIKE THERE ARE QUITE A FEW VILLAGES, LARGE AND SMALL.
LIKE THE ANTI-ZERO ARMY'S INFO IS RIGHT!

DAMMIT! THIS PLACE IS COVERED WITH INVALIDS WHEREVER YOU LOOK AND IT'S BEGINNING TO BUG ME THAT IT WAS NUKED TO THIS EXTENT.
ALTHOUGH IT'S ROUTINE PERIMETER DUTY. TWO WEEKS IN THE SLUMS.
BEING SHOWERED IN ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS IS HARSH, MAN!
WHAT ABOUT IZAYA?
STILL MISSING.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S INSIDE ZOO AND I BET HE'S TAKEN SANCTUARY IN THE SLUMS.
I WANNA GO BACK TO ZOO SOON, I'M TELLIN' YA.
EVEN IF IT RAINS JAPAN IS IN THE ACID RAIN ZONE!
AWFUL
IT'S AWFUL
WHY DID SHIN KILL KAIS?
THAT'S AWFUL GEO...
GRUNGH

YOU WANT TO GET INTO THAT WEIRD BUILDING THAT GROWS DAY BY DAY?
WHADDA WE HAVE HERE? IT'S A BLONDIE SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE IN THE SLUMS.
HOSPITAL
WHERE'S KOKA?
YELLOW FIFTY NINE
ZERO SYNDR

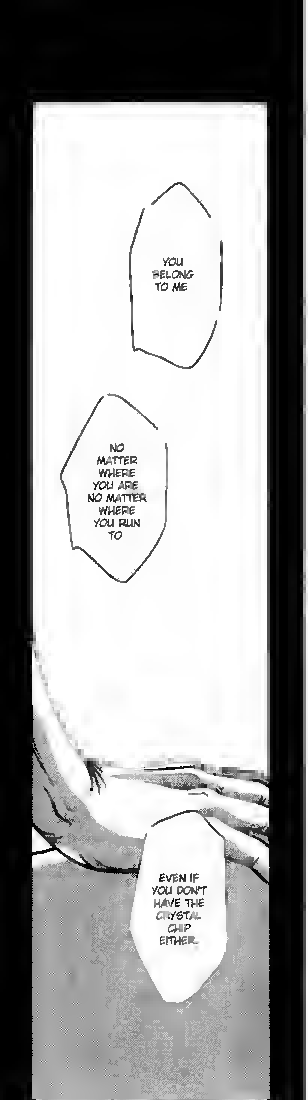
ZERO WAS THAT KIND OF DRUG HUNH?
HIS BODY'S ALRIGHT... BUT HE DOESN'T WAKE UP
IS HE BREATHING PROPERLY?
OH!
IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN. I DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH IN FOR IT TO BE A POSSIBLE SIDE-EFFECT TO OCCUR.
THE MAJORITY OF A PERSON'S MEMORIES HOLD FAST TO THAT POINT.
IF IT'S ENJOYABLE THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED CAN IT? I THOUGHT IT WAS CERTAINLY MORE ENJOYABLE THAN NOW, YOU KNOW.
GENERALLY ZERO JUST HELPS TO MAKE IT EASY TO RECALL THE PERIOD THAT WAS THE MOST ENJOYABLE IN THAT PERSON'S MEMORIES AND
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE POWERFUL IMAGES
NORMALLY, EVEN IF THERE IS ANOTHER REACTION, IT SHOULD BE A GOOD ONE
EVERYTHING THAT THEY SEE IN THE "ZERO ERA" IS JUST WHAT IS DESIRED IN THE DEEP PSYCHE.

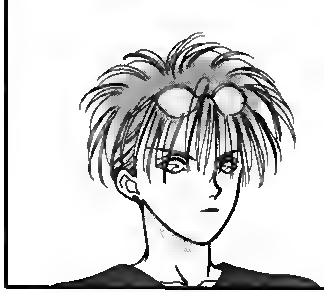
SO THEY DON'T WANT TO COME OUT OF IT... IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
THERE'S A TRAUMA IN THE BRAIN.
THERE'S A FLAW IN THE MEMORY, SO THEY CAN'T LEAVE. IS THAT IT? THEY CAN'T COME BACK.
ARE THEY SEEING THE SAME REPEATING DREAM? WANTING TO SEE WHAT'S AHEAD AFTER THAT LIGHT AND CEASE TO EXIST BODILY?
WAIT A SEC! WELL WHAT ABOUT KOKA?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT LIGHT"?
IT'S PROBABLY THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FROM SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO. I SAW IT TOO FOR AN INSTANT, BUT I RETURNED.
SO THERE IS A WAY
I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE SOME GOOD MEDICINE FOR US, AGI.
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
BUT THIS IS...
PAT
IRRESPONSIBLE
IT WAS A "ME OTHER PEOPLE DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE" TYPE OF PERSON.
YEAH WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO WAKE YOU UP!
HANG IN THERE KOKA!
SOMETHING MADE ME REALISE IT AT THE TIME
WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO WAKE YOU UP, KOKA!
UP UNTIL NOW I HAD TO HAVE FUN AND THAT WAS ENOUGH

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO CARE ABOUT MY FRIENDS AND THE THINGS AROUND ME
FURTHERMORE IT SEEMS THAT I DIDN'T HATE MYSELF MUCH ...
WHEN ARE WE GOING AFTER CLASS?
NO YES! LET'S LOOK FOR HOA WITHOUT BEING NASTY
3
OH!
HUMP
IT'S 'CAUSE I SAW HIS EAR EVERYDAY WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING
YOU MEAN SLEEPING SIDE BY SIDE?
YOU'RE WELL INFORMED! AREN'T YOU!
YES, IT'S Z-606.
NO SIR!
TATTO CAN YOU TELL ME HOUSE'S #
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
MED
EXCUSE ME SOMEONE NAMED BATSU F BISHI SHOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED HERE, BUT
IS HE STILL IN ICU?
I'LL TAKE A LOOK. DO YOU KNOW HIS REGISTRATION NUMBER?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
IT'S OKAY
HE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT COOL!
HE'S LAZY AND CARELESS
THAT COOL BEAUTY DID-2!?
WHAT TO DO NEXT
BATSU PROTECTED YOU!?!?
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU TWO DOING?
YOU REALLY GOT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS DIDN'T YOU.
HA HA HA
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS OR ANYTHING! HE PROTECTED ME BECAUSE I WAS HURT.

MILITALY
THEY SAY THAT THEY'LL SHOW YOU TO HIM SO PLEASE FOLLOW THEM
SOME-THING'S WRONG
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MYSELF
WELL THE THIS WAY PLEASE

KA-SHANK
-SO WHERE IS...
HEY!
WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU, KAGRO
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY
I CAME HERE TO MEET BATSU, AND ?
THERE'S NO REASON AT ALL FOR YOU TO BE WAITING FOR ME
NOW, NOW IF YOU'LL JUST TELL ME RIGHT OUT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR, I'LL LET YOU MEET BATSU RIGHT AWAY JUST AS YOU WISH
BATSU'S HERE!? HE'S ALIVE!?
THAT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU PLEASE GIVE ME THE CRYSTAL CHIP YOU GOT IT FROM BATSU DIDN'T YOU?


YOU BELONG TO ME
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN TO
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE CRYSTAL CHIP EITHER.



-WHAT DID HE SAY JUST NOW?
OH ?
OR, CRYSTAL ??
HE SAID "CRYSTAL CHIP"!!
IF YOU'VE GOT IT GIVE IT UP RIGHT AWAY GEO!

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT
REALLY?

WELL THEN YOU'LL LET US HAVE A LOOK, WON'T YOU?
GAH!

WITH A LOT OF EFFORT I WAS ABLE TO SEPERATE YOU FROM YOUR MOTHER IN EXCHANGE FOR CASH AND PUT YOU IN ZOO
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING YOU INTO MY HANDS STEP BY STEP...
DAY BY DAY, YOU ARE LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM
HOWEVER, I WON'T ALLOW TREACHERY IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO BETRAY ME LIKE AKIFUMI, I'LL KILL YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS
I'LL KEEP YOU CLOSE AT HAND TRAIN YOU TO BE A MORE APPROPRIATE GRANDSON FOR ME AND A MORE SUPERIOR HUMAN
EVEN IF YOU ESCAPE I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN AND CATCH YOU
YOU BELONG TO ME, SO
KA-CHAU!

SURE ARE A TALKATIVE OL' GIT ARENCHA
DON'T BE SHOOTING ALL OVER PEOPLE
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SAYING ALL THAT
OWCH
I'LL JUST HAVE TO ESCAPE AND SHOW YOU WON'T I?
HMPH
SCRUNCH
WHOAH!
WELL AS LONG AS I CAN USE MY LEFT ARM,
ACK!
OWW OWW
HA-RI

SIGH

YOU REALLY SURPRISE ME YOU KNOW
HUFF
BA
BATSU!!

IDIO...T?
YOU SAY THAT TO YOUR LIFESAVER!?
HM
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
IDIOT!
CAUSE IT SEEMED THAT IT WOULD BE LUCKIER FOR ME! I BOTCHED IT THOUGH
YOU
WHY DID YOU PROTECT ME!? IT'S BEEN A HUGE PAIN IN THE NECK!!
BATSU YOU CAN FIGHT LATER, SO I WANT YOU TO PLEASE TELL GEO TO HAND OVER THE CRYSTAL CHIP
THEY REALLY DON'T GET ALONG DO THEY
I DID IT BECAUSE I EXPECTED SOMETHING IN RETURN!! YOU SHOULD BOW AND SCRAPE BEG ME AND SHOW SOME APPRECIATION!
EVEN THOUGH I WENT TO THE POINT IN THE DESERT AND REFRAINED FROM KILLING YOU, YOU THINK I CAN STAND LOSING OUT TO SOMEONE ELSE?
THAT'S THE REASON!?

WHOA.
THAT'S WHEN IT IS, HUH?!
YEAH. YOU MEAN THAT THING EH?
I'VE GOT IT LET THOSE TWO GO
PAM!
YOU'VE GOT IT?
WHERE IN THE HELL ARE YOU HIDING IT?
HMMMM, WHEEEERE IS
IT?
RUN!
OW!
BA-TA BA-TA BA-TA

IS IT PAINFUL?
BA-TA BA-TA BA-TA
WHERE ARE THEY?
THEY WENT THAT WAY
WHERE'S THE WOUND?
TAP
DOES IT HURT?
TAP TAP

SIGH
NOT ALL THAT MUCH
OH
PEAL
HEY!
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE MY SLAVE. YOU'LL DO WHATEVER I SAY
HEH HEH HEH
TAKE A GOOD LOOK. YOU DID THIS...
SCRUNCH
LISTEN UP!

WUZZAH
GULP
HEY HEY HEY HEY, GEO!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WAS IT IN YOUR NATURE TO LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY?
AHH, CHRIST!
MEN DON'T GET SCARED CAUSE OF A WOUND LIKE THIS.
BUTBUTBUT YOU'RE GASPING FOR BREATH, AREN'T YA?
IT'S 'CAUSE WE WERE RUNNING RIGHT?
AND YOU'RE BLUE IN THE FACE.
MY BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL'S DROPPED! GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT RUNNIN' TOO.
WELL THEN, IF THAT'S BEEN DECIDED LET'S WALK! TAKE HOLD OF ME QUICKLY NOW.
WHY'S THE SLAVE GIVING ORDERS!?
I DID NO SUCH THING! START WALKING AT ONCE!
SAY ANYTHING AND DON'T BE SHY ABOUT IT!
ALRIGHT! I'LL BE YOUR SLAVE ONLY WHILE WE'RE ESCAPING!
EEK! WHY YOU...
UH-OH!
TARA TARA TA

IS SOMEONE IN HERE!?
BAM
KREEK
KA-BAM
THAT WAS CLOSE
MY RIGHT SIDE HURTS
HURTS
WHEW
ARE YOU MAKING ME DO THIS? YOU'RE THE DEVIL, AREN'T YOU?
NO-THIS AIN'T ME-THIS
WE'VE GOT TO CRAWL AHEAD
I'LL GO LOOK FOR THE BEST PATH
SMUSH
AHWW WHAT THE-? I WAS AN IDIOT FOR BELIEVING IN YOU EVEN A LITTLE BIT
THIS IS THE BEST PATH!? WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT!?!

I'LL GO AHEAD
OUR FRESHERS WILL COME THIS WAY TOO WON'T THEY?
THE RECORD'S A LONG WAY DOWN.
THE OTHERS ARE DUST CHUTES THAT GO STRAIGHT DOWN! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT HAS FOOTING!
HMMPH. MY SLAVE'S FRIENDS...
TIN TIN TIN
CRANCE
HAH?
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED IT'S ALRIGHT TO LEAN ON ME I'LL WAIT EVERY FIFTH RUNG
AH
HEY!
HUHN?
EVERY TENTH RUNG IS OKAY!

PA-WHUMF
ZZZUPAN
TOK
YOU CAN'T DO THAT
PANT
PANT
PANT
IF YOU WANT TO GO ON LEAVE ME HERE I'M RESTING!!
IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW YOU AT ALL ONLY UP UNTIL A WHILE AGO
YEAH EVEN NOW IT'S NOT LIKE YOU PARTICULARLY KNOW MY BACKGROUND IS IT?
WHEN I HEAR THAT, I'M AMAZED AT YOU AND MIGHT COME TO HATE YOU
EVEN DON'T BE ANGRY A LITTLE RIGHT NOW

BUT THAT'S ALRIGHT. ISN'T IT? JUST RETURN TO THE BEGINNING CAN YOU TELL ME?
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ALL RIGHT!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL SERIOUS ABOUT?
RIGHT? LISTEN UP!
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, IN A CERTAIN PLACE, A CHINESE SPY GUY
BUCK HA HA
GAA HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH RIGHT, RIGHT... AND THEN?
UNDER CHINESE ORDERS, THAT SPY CAUSED THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN JAPAN SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO AND...
HE PLANNED TO DESTROY THE COMPUTER THAT'S UNDER ZOO.
HOWEVER, THE SPY SOLD THAT INFORMATION TO THE U.S. MILITARY. BECAME THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF ZOO AND...
IS PLANNING TO BRING THE COMPUTER BACK TO LIFE USING THE POWER OF THE MISSILE SUNK ON THE SEA BOTTOM AND MAKE IT HIS OWN
THE KEY PART TO THAT COMPUTER IS THAT...
CRYSTAL CHIP!
WHY? WHY DO YOU HAVE IT?
WHO KNOWS? GO ASK MY DAD.

IT APPEARS THERE AREN'T ANY CHIPS THAT OPERATE BY MEANS OF THIS HIGH GHUOE AND COMPLICATED! A RADIO SIGNAL. AND THE CHANNELS SEEM VERY FINE TOO
THEY SAY IT'S A PERFECT MONOCRYSTAL THAT DOESN'T SOAK UP THE STRONG ULTRAVIOLET RAYS AROUND HERE AT ALL YOU KNOW
SOOOOO IF I TELL YOU THAT MUCH WHY DON'T WE GO AND VERIFY IT?
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS REALLY IS? SUPPOSING THAT'S SO. WHAT'LL HAPPEN?
WHY?
WELL ESCAPING THIS WAY WE WON'T BE CAUGHT EITHER, EH?
IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE RUNNING FROM.
BY THE WAY IT'S UNDER-GROUND
DIDN'T SOMEBODY SAY THAT NO ONE COULD GET IN?

Editors Note As there is no chapter break up provided in zero - 1, I have been breaking up the volume where the plot allows Please don't take what I've cut the releases into as the actual chapters

~Hoowee